

Germany 1918 - 1939

a)

The failure of democracy in Germany during the period between 1918 and 1939 does not fall down to one particular event or personality, however an important cause of this failure is the nationalistic view that ~~was~~ a majority of people in Germany held.

Before the implementation of the clauses agreed upon in the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had been a nation of authoritarian rule, however as one of the agreements in the Treaty, Germany was to become a democracy. For a nation with no democratic background, emerging ~~from~~ defeated from a war in a political state they had never known, failure of the democracy was almost certain.

The defeat in World War I came as a shock to many in Germany. A country with such a strong military background had never known defeat before. It was for this reason that many fell prey to the "stab in the back" myth by the "November criminals". German people, who were a proud people, felt betrayed by their political leaders, blaming the failure of the war on them, and seeing it as a disgrace to the nation.

~~During~~ The implementation of democracy in Germany did not start well, and did not get much better. Democracy was supposed to give minority groups a voice in Germany, however soon enough there were so many parties running, that it was impossible to get a majority vote, leading to a jumbling of governments, with no set, strong leader.

After ~~the~~ World War I and under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was to pay reparations to the victorious nations, among many other agreements which Clemenceau had set on the Treaty.

Germany was forced to pay its reparations ~~however found it hard to~~ and was able to deliver its first payments, however failed to pay its second. Germany's economy was slow, so in an attempt to fulfill her ~~reparations~~ reparations payments, Germany began to print more money, rendering the German currency worthless within a few months.

The German people were living in a country whose currency had become worthless, a government who had no strong national leader and in a time when living was harsh.

Germany's national pride had been hurt by the defeat in World War I and nothing was improving.

The army played a major role on the political scene of the time. The German army was very particular as to who it would defend the government against. They fought against the uprising of extreme left wing parties, however refused to fight against uprising from the extreme right, such as the Kapp Putsch.

Germany was in need of a leader who was strong and would not back down. The people of Germany wanted to return to the familiar, as a state of authoritarian rule. It was these reasons that led to Hitler's ascension to power, and this strong sense of nationalism which caused the failure of democracy in Germany in the period 1918 to 1934.